To: Principal Kevin Scott

From: Tracy Farley

Date: 06/18/13

RE: Online class for 8th grade

I would like for our school to be competitive and keep up with the growth of technology in education. I would like for us to include an online social studies class for our advanced students as part of the 2013-2014 curriculum. This pilot class would introduce our 8th grade students to the world of virtual learning. Virtual learning is becoming a necessity as we move deeper into the 21st century. Technology is spreading faster than a wild fire and it is imperative that our students be able to keep up. There are many benefits to online learning. Listed below are a few:

1. The student will be able to move at their own pace
2. The student learns how to effective increase their computer skills, research capabilities and other resources.
3. The student works independently.
4. Prepares the student for college.
5. Can potentially meet student from around the world.
6. Disabled student can participate without being in a classroom setting.
7. The student can participate in the learning style that is best for them.
8. The kids will have 24 hour access to the class.

I choose social studies class as the pilot because I have a passion for this subject and I think that it will be the easiest subject to implement. This course will meet all the GA standards. The students will have to meet a few requirements before they would be allowed into our online program. The students must have a 3.0 grade point average and be above average with their reading level. Reading is essential to this course as the majority of instruction will be written. The initial pilot will not include disabled students that do not meet the criteria above; however, they will be phased into the program in the future. The class will include a few video lectures, power points, pictures and grafts. The student’s parents must also sign an agreement stating that they will support the students by providing all the necessary equipment. The students will need some parental supervision. The students will take a diagnostic placement test, which will allow us to tailor the class to meet the student’s individual needs. As an incentive these students will be allowed to take an additional elective class.

This class will actually save the school time and money. Initially, there will be cost for the online set up of the class. The teachers will have an additional planning period when the kids are taking the extra elective. I think this class will have a positive effect on the students that participate. I think they will be better prepared for high school and college. Eventually, I would like for these classes to progress into actual high school credits. Obtaining high school credits during the 8th grade year will enable the students to graduate early. We will have to maintain technical support, to help with any technical problems. I would like to propose an August 7, 2013 start date for this class.

Thanks you for your consideration

Tracy Farley